



DATE: **OCTOBER 12, 2005**

SUBJECT: **NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND INTENT TO ADOPT AN INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED
NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE PROPOSED BIG CHICO CREEK ACCESS TO
SACRAMENTO RIVER PROJECT**

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has directed the preparation of and intends to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed project, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and State CEQA Guidelines. DPR is the lead agency for the proposed project under CEQA.

Project Location: Big Chico Creek Riparian Area Subunit
Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park
River Road and Chico River Road
Butte County

Description of the Proposed Project:

The proposed project will provide interim day-use facilities at Big Chico Creek Riparian Area. All facilities will comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, and will include:

- Paved entryway, 20' wide by 100' long, to the site from River Road, aligned with the existing park entrance on the opposite side of River Road.
- Small unpaved parking area, surface graded, compacted, and covered with four inches of aggregate (gravel). The parking area will include 13 passenger car spaces and two car-and-trailer spaces. One space will be ADA van accessible.
- Sloped 10' wide by 40' long ramp intended for hand carrying lightweight boating vessels (kayaks, canoes) from vehicles into the water. The ramp will be constructed of precast concrete.
- Three day use picnic sites with concrete picnic tables.
- One accessible portable chemical toilet near the day use picnic sites.
- Accessible walking/hiking trails located throughout the parcel totaling approximately one mile.
- Installation of various signs: two to three at entrance (stop, entrance, regulatory), three to five at day use area (regulatory, guide, parking, interpretive), and two at trail intersections (guide).
- Annual maintenance will include removal of silt deposited by winter flooding. Silt will be deposited off site.

Public Review Period:

The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration is being circulated for public review and comment for a period of 30 days, beginning October 12, 2005. Questions regarding project specifics should be directed to Matt Teague, Project Manager, at (530) 538-2212.

Your views and comments on this project are welcomed. Written comments regarding this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration should be submitted to the following address:

Gail Sevens
California Department of Parks and Recreation
Northern Service Center
One Capital Mall, Suite 500
Sacramento, California 95814
FAX: (916) 445-9100
Email: gsevr@parks.ca.gov

Submissions must be postmarked or received by fax or email no later than November 11, 2005. The originals of any faxed document must be received by regular mail within ten working days following the deadline for comments, along with proof of successful fax transmission. Email or fax submissions must include a full name and address.

Copies of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration may be reviewed at the following locations during normal business hours:

- Northern Service Center
California Department of Parks & Recreation
One Capitol Mall - Suite 410
Sacramento, CA 95814
- Northern Buttes District Headquarters
California Department of Parks & Recreation
400 Glen Drive
Oroville, CA 95966
- Butte County Library, Chico Branch
1108 Sherman Avenue
Chico, CA 95926
- California Department of Parks and Recreation website
www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=980